

who are often burdened by substantial debt. A recent survey found that almost a third of those practicing dependency attorneys graduated law school with over \$75,000 in outstanding loans, and 44 percent of them currently owe over \$50,000.

High turnover among dependency attorneys has led to a dearth of experienced lawyers who have a comprehensive understanding of the system and can maintain valuable relationships with their young clients.

The Fostering Our Future Act responds to each of those shortcomings. My bill authorizes grants to State dependency court systems to track and analyze caseloads as well as to train court personnel. These grants are leveraged by requiring that the recipient court systems collaborate with the State's corresponding child welfare agencies and track a series of critical performance metrics.

The legislation further establishes a loan forgiveness program to attract and retain qualified child welfare attorneys. By encouraging statewide interagency collaboration and data-sharing by tracking cases and training court personnel, by ensuring that effective representation is available to children and their families, and most importantly, by focusing on child welfare outcomes, this legislation will keep the needs of children and families rather than the needs of bureaucrats front and center.

I commend the child welfare workers of America for the invaluable services they provide and for constantly struggling to get this issue the attention that it deserves. Foster care plays a crucial role in our Nation's child welfare safety net, but it is in desperate need of support and reform.

I call my colleagues to join me in working for the day when all of the Nation's children are protected, nurtured, and loved, and I invite you to join me in that quest by cosponsoring the Fostering Our Future Act of 2005.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

#### TIME TO LEAVE IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, since the United States went to war in Iraq over 2 years ago, Congress has approved spending bill after spending bill to pay for military operations in Iraq. But one thing Congress has never done is provide any meaningful oversight over the war and the spending on the war.

Think about it. Congress will spend money on Iraq to the point of busting our already fragile budget, but when it comes to truly managing the war, Congress is nowhere to be found. Every single Member of Congress and the people that elected them should be utterly ashamed of this absence of Congress on this crucial issue.

With nearly 2,000 United States troops killed, another 15,000 wounded, and countless thousands of Iraqis killed, the U.S. Congress must, must exercise its oversight responsibilities to determine why things are going so drastically wrong in Iraq.

I have repeatedly asked the House Armed Services Committee and the House International Relations Committee to hold hearings on Iraq. Unfortunately, no committee has undertaken a serious and thoughtful examination of the war.

Since Congress has continually failed in that duty, I have decided to take matters into my own hands. Last Thursday I held a hearing to assess how to end the war in Iraq and start bringing our troops home.

Such luminaries as former Senator Max Cleland, four-star Marine Corps General Joseph Hoar, and former U.S. Ambassador David Mack testified at this hearing.

Thirty Members of Congress, bipartisan Members at that, all of whom are frustrated by the same tired policies when it comes to Iraq, joined me at this hearing. The purpose of this hearing was to address not the when of ending the war, but how to end the war. After all, we should all be able to agree that the United States cannot continue to fight in Iraq indefinitely.

Given that fact, we need to start thinking about how the United States can responsibly leave Iraq without making a bad situation worse. As Senator Cleland so eloquently stated, "When we talk about an exit strategy, we need to put the focus on strategy."

If the hearing demonstrated anything, it is that we need to start bringing our troops home because it is our very presence in Iraq that is encouraging and uniting Iraq's insurgency. But the sad truth is that the Bush administration is doing nothing to help end the war. They have no plan for how to conduct the war, they had no plan for securing the country once Saddam

Hussein was deposed, and now they have no plan for ending the war.

Well, if they do not, we will. That is what our hearing was about last week. We are trying to jump-start a debate in Congress that should have begun long ago.

The hearing was not about endorsing any one exit strategy, it was about putting all of them on the table and getting the discussions started. It was about encouraging the rest of the Congress to take a strong stand against permanent U.S. military bases on Iraq's soil and Iraqi control of Iraqi oil.

The American people have known for many months that the rationale for going to war in Iraq was based on fraud and lies. They have known that the war will continue to drain our resources and kill our young men and women in the military.

Now, two-thirds of Americans support a partial or complete military withdrawal from Iraq. It is time for Congress to start getting that message. And it is time for Congress to catch up with the American people and to catch up with the witnesses at Thursday's hearing.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL J. ADANTI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to join family, friends, colleagues, and community members in remembering the remarkable life of Michael J. Adanti, who was taken from us in a tragic car accident this summer.

Mike was not only an outstanding member of our community, but a dear friend whose strength, support, warmth, and kind heart I will miss.

Throughout his life, Mike demonstrated a unique commitment to public service. A teacher, administrator, mayor, and university president, Mike dedicated a lifetime to enriching the lives of others. After graduating from Southern Connecticut State University, Mike took a position with the Ansonia School District where he taught for 3 years, helping to provide our youngest children with the educational foundation they would need for future success.

He went on to serve two successful terms as the mayor of the City of Ansonia before returning to Southern Connecticut State University as the first Dean of Personnel Administration, the beginning of what would be an